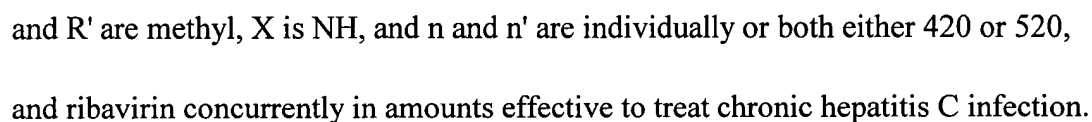


Please cancel claims 1-5 and 10.

6. (Originally presented) A method for treating chronic hepatitis C infections comprising administering a PEG-IFN- $\alpha$  conjugate having the formula:



7. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered in an amount of about 33 to about 540 mcg per week.

8. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of about 400 to about 1200 mg daily.

9. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein at least one daily dose of ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein from about 150µg to about 250µg of the PEG-IFN-α2A conjugate is administered once a week for at least one week and from about 800 mg to about 1200 mg of ribavirin is administered daily during the same at least one week the PEG-IFN-α2A conjugate is administered.

12. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein about 180µg of the PEG-IFN-α2A conjugate is administered once a week for 48 weeks and from about 400 mg to

about 600 mg of ribavirin is administered twice daily during the same 48 weeks the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered.

A1  
cont

